

CENTRE FOR JOINT WARFARE STUDIES



CENJOWS

Directed Energy Weapon Systems

In 'Game Changer,' Israeli Laser-Based Air Defense Shoots Down Drones.

1. An Israeli under development laser-based interception system successfully shot down drones, rockets, mortars, and anti-tank missiles (interceptions of guided and unguided projectiles) in a first series of tests during March at Israel's Negev desert. The Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett had announced in February that Israel would deploy the ground-based laser air defence system – dubbed 'Iron Beam' within the year. The system is expected to supplement the short-range Iron Dome, which is costly to operate and Israel feels might be found insufficient to counter the large number of varied threats of rockets, missiles, and drones. The system developed by Rafael, if deployed within the year, would be the first operational laser based air defence equipment. "The Iron Beam's interceptions are silent, they're invisible and they only cost around \$3.50 apiece", Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said after the tests.

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/laser-based-air-defense-shoots-down-drones-rockets-in-first-series-of-trials/>

Navy Conducts Historic Test of New Laser Weapon System.

2. In a U.S. Navy's Office of Naval Research (ONR) sponsored test at the U.S. Army's High Energy Laser Systems Test Facility, a ground-based laser system destroyed a drone in flight. Designed and built by Lockheed Martin, the multi-domain, multi-platform demonstration system called the Layered Laser Defense (LLD) is an all-electric, high-energy laser weapon. The test follows other successful ONR tests of 2014

and 2021 onboard USN Ships. LLD has previously demonstrated tracking and destruction capabilities against an array of targets-including unmanned fixed-wing aerial vehicles, quadcopters and high-speed drones representing subsonic cruise missiles.

<https://eurasianimes.com/us-navy-conducts-historic-test-of-high-energy-laser-weapons/>